

Meeting: CSN 20th User Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 10 March 2021

Agenda item: CSN Support to Operations, Exercises and Emergencies Overview

Document number: CSN 20.3.2

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This paper provides summary information on additional activities undertaken in 2020 in reply to requests for support to specific Operations, Emergencies and Maritime exercises.
Action to be taken	The CSN User Group is invited to take note of the information provided.

1 Background

This paper presents a summary of services delivered in 2020 following specific requests, on top of the regular monitoring activities.

These include:

- support to specific maritime operations and exercises;
- support to maritime emergencies following the activation of the EMSA Contingency Plan.

2 Support to Operations

In 2020, 1 operation was supported with additional CSN services entailing ad-hoc planning activities:

- 1 request for Tour D' Horizon operations. See details in Table 1 provides

Table 1-List of Operations supported in 2020

Date	Requesting country	Operation	EO products
September	Belgium	Tour D'Horizon operation	23 SAR

3 Support to Exercises

Member States also requested support from CleanSeaNet service during exercises. The exercises enable testing and fine-tuning of the emergency procedures and gaining experience on the possible satellite coverage in such scenarios. In 2020, 4 pollution response exercises were supported by CleanSeaNet, listed in Table 2. In 1 of those exercises, an optical EO product was ordered with the purpose to support the exercise activities which involved national and EMSA's assets on site. All other exercises were supported with satellite acquisition feasibilities and no real images were requested.

Table 2-List of Exercises supported in 2020

Date	Requesting country	Exercise Name	EO products provided
July	Bulgaria	BREEZE	List of potential images (feasibility analysis)
August	Estonia	BALEX BRAVO	2 SAR images previously planned under the CSN routine planning. No additional EO products were tasked.
October	Cyprus	NEMESIS	1 optical
October	France	CHARENTE	List of potential images (feasibility analysis)

4 Support to Emergencies

In 2020, a total of 12 requests for additional support from EMSA's CleanSeaNet service were received from coastal States addressing accidental spills and emergencies. 33 additional images were ordered to support these requests. Table 3 lists emergencies supported by the CleanSeaNet in 2020.

Table 3-List of emergencies supported in 2020

Date	Requesting country	Description	EO products
2020/01/07	Ireland	12m-trawler fishing vessel ALIZE with two people on board sunk shortly after midnight. EPIRB was activated. Images ordered to monitor potential pollution and debris.	3 SAR
2020/01/10	Spain	4 to 5 tonnes of fuel oil where spilled during bunkering operations in the port of Ceuta, Spain.	1 SAR
2020/02/25	Iceland	Beach pollution in Iceland. Birds covered in crude oil have been found both in Vestmannaeyjar Islands and in Reynisfjara (coastal area in south Iceland) almost daily since Friday 21 February 2020. The source of the oil was unknown.	3 SAR

2020/02/28	French Guiana	MRCC Fort-de-France (French Guyana) has requested satellite imagery to follow a confirmed pollution of sargassum (algae). This pollution was detected in a normal scheduled CSN scene on 27Feb. Further satellite imagery requested over the same area for the following 3 days.	3 SAR
2020/03/05	France	MRCC Jobourg received an alert reporting that the fishing vessel Antarès had capsized northwest of the port of Le Havre. All 3 crew members were rescued. MRCC Jobourg requested satellite imagery to detect any possible pollution from the sinking vessel, until the resurface activities were completed.	2 SAR
2020/03/26	Malta	Malta Transport requested satellite imagery to support their local operations following the sinking of Lady Sandra tanker. The vessel suffered severe damage and water ingress northeast of Malta in a storm with 4-5 m swell and wind speed of 50 kt, and subsequently broke in two parts – fore section at anchor, aft section drifting. Malta requested assistance to detect possible pollution caused by the accident.	3 SAR
2020/03/30	Spain	Pollution was detected in a Sentinel-1 image NW of La Palma. The source of the pollution is unknown.	3 SAR
2020/04/17	Ireland	Pollution was detected in a CleanseaNet image on the South coast of Ireland. The source of the pollution is unknown. The MRCC requested more images to follow up the spill while national assets were deployed.	3 SAR
2020/08/11	Bulgaria	White congealed lumps with a waxy texture, corresponding to palm oil, appeared in many kilometres of coastline in Bulgaria. Request to EMSA to try to localise the possible polluter and for optical images for monitoring.	3 optical
2020/08/12	Ireland	Following the detection of oil spots in two CleanSeaNet images, Irish National Maritime Operations Centre in Dublin requested additional imagery.	2 SAR
2020/08/16	France - La Reunion	Further to the support already provided on the scope of the Wakashio Maritime Emergency, MRCC la Reunion requested imagery to anticipate potential adverse consequences of the sinking of the wreck offshore Mauritius.	1 SAR and 1 optical
2020/11/08	Portugal	DGRM requested satellite imagery for oil spill monitoring after the sinking of the Southwester vessel. General cargo with container capacity Southwester sent a distress alert on 05Nov after the vessel experienced an explosion in its engine compartment that resulted in the engine room flooding. A nearby vessel resc 14 crew members, about 30 miles from Figueira da Foz on the same day. During towage operation by tug Castelo de Obidos, the Southwester lost stability and capsized at around 17 NM SW of Leixoes, Porto. Cargo on board was steel scrap.	5 SAR

